

October 8, 2020

Dear Congressman LaHood:

I am happy to endorse the legislation you introduced to the U.S. Congress, H.R. 8224, the New Philadelphia, Illinois, Historical Park Act, to establish New Philadelphia as unit of the National Park System. The first town in our nation founded by an African American, New Philadelphia is a place where formerly enslaved and free-born African Americans and European Americans lived together during one of the most racially turbulent eras of our country's history.

There is no site comparable to New Philadelphia in the National Park System, where less than 7% of the 419 units are directly associated with African-American history. As a unit of the National Park Service, New Philadelphia will contribute to a more complete history of our nation. Federal protection will ensure that archaeological evidence held in the soil of New Philadelphia may significantly contribute to new ideas and theories about how to study race relations over a century.

Now is the time to uplift our country's collective spirit, to accentuate our unity and recognize the contributions of African Americans by acknowledging the extraordinary national significance of New Philadelphia, Illinois, with its inclusion as a unit of the National Park System.

I am pleased to support the New Philadelphia, Illinois, Historical Park Act.

Sincerely,

Carol McCartney  
Pike County Historical Society  
New Philadelphia Association  
Newburg Township Supervisor